

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 1996
TAG REVIEW DATE: 23 JULY 1997**

1. SITE NAME: Camp Coxcomb

SITE NUMBER: J09CA027400

LOCATION:

City: Freda
County: Riverside
State: California

PROJECT NUMBER: J09CA027401

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 4

TAG RAC: 4

2. POC's:

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3. SITE DESCRIPTION: The former Camp Coxcomb is generally located along the west side of California Highway 177, 24 miles southwest of Freda, California. The Colorado River Aqueduct passes through a portion of the site. Approximately 8,563 acres of the site is currently owned by the U.S. Department of Interior

and is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Approximately 2,957 acres of the site is owned by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and various private parties. In addition, historical records indicate that approximately 50 mining claims have been located on the Camp Coxcomb site. It is not known how many are still valid. Current law requires a record maintenance fee be paid by claim-holders and many of these claims may have lapsed.

Today, the majority of the site is undeveloped, scrub-covered foothills and is being utilized as a recreational and a wildlife conservation area. The California Desert Plan has designated the entire area as Multiple Use Class M and is in the process of upgrading the dirt roads to passable conditions. In addition, a monitoring program was implemented to ensure the stability of the site. Preservation of the site and protection from damage are the primary concerns of the BLM.

4. SITE HISTORY: In March 1942, the War Department tasked General George S. Patton, Jr., to find a desert training site that met all the criteria of North Africa. The Desert Training Center (DTC), also called the California-Arizona Maneuver Area (CAMA), resulted from General Patton's reconnoitering. The former training area encompasses approximately 11 million acres within three states.

Camp Coxcomb was one of ten major camps in this vast training area. The U.S. Government, through the War Department, used an implied transfer of property from the Department of Interior and acquired revocable permits from the State of California. After acquiring the aforementioned property, construction began on Camp Coxcomb in the fall of 1942. The camp was finally completed in the spring 1943.

The purpose of this camp, like the others in the DTC/CAMA, was to train troops, to test ammunition/weapons and supplies in a desert environment, and to make training as realistic as possible by using live ordnance.

The campsite was constructed with 21 numbered streets, 1st through 21st Street, and six named perpendicular to the numbered streets. There were numerous temporary improvements to sustain a division-sized unit.

In early 1944, the entire DTC/CAMA was considered surplus with a closing date in the spring of 1944. Camp Coxcomb, along with the other camps, had to push hard to meet the deadline for closure.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

***All acreage approximate**

AREA **AA**@

Size, Acres:	26*
Former Use:	Headquarters Area (Later bomb target)
Present Use:	Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use:	Wildlife Conservation
Ordinance Presence:	Confirmed
Type:	Practice Bombs

AREA **AB**@

Size, Acres:	20*
Former Use:	Garbage Dump Area
Present Use:	Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use:	Wildlife Conservation
Ordinance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Unspecified

AREA **AC**@

Size, Acres:	16*
Former Use:	Garbage OE Dump Area
Present Use:	Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use:	Wildlife Conservation
Ordinance Presence:	Potential
Type:	Artillery (projectile nose plug & ordnance packing material found here)

AREA **AD**@

Size, Acres:	4,117*
Former Use:	Camp Site Area
Present Use:	Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use:	Wildlife Conservation
Ordinance Presence:	Uncontaminated

AREA **AE@**

Size, Acres: 7,129*
Former Use: Surrounding Lands Area
Present Use: Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use: Wildlife Conservation
Ordnance Presence: Portions of Area E - Sections 15, 22, 27, 34 and the east half of Section 21 - are **Potential** for HE mortars, hand grenades, 75 MM and 105 MM shells. (See **Cleanup Efforts** in the Issues and Concerns for more information.)

The remainder of Area E should remain labeled **Uncontaminated**.

AREA **AF@**

Size, Acres: 42*
Former Use: Known Distance (KD) 1000" .45 Cal. Submachine Gun Range (Range 2)
Present Use: Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use: Wildlife Conservation
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: HE Mortars, Hand grenades, 75 MM and 105 MM Shells

AREA **AG@**

Size, Acres: 42*
Former Use: KD 1000" .30 Cal. Machine Gun & Browning Auto Rifle Range (Range 3)
Present Use: Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use: Wildlife Conservation
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: HE Mortars, Hand grenades, 75 MM and 105 MM Shells

AREA **AH@** (Only 55 acres of Area H lie within the FDE-established FUDS boundaries.)

Size, Acres: 155* (100 acres of additional lands)
Former Use: KD 100-200-300-500 Yds. .30 Cal. Range (Range 3)
Present Use: Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use: Wildlife Conservation
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: HE Mortars, Hand grenades, 75 MM and 105 MM Shells

AREA AI@ (See Issues & Concerns)

Size, Acres: 21*
Former Use: Unofficial Disposal(?)
Present Use: Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use: Wildlife Conservation
Ordnance Presence: **Confirmed** (by site investigation team)
Type: HE Grenade Frag & fuze components

AREA AJ@

Size, Acres: 52*
Former Use: Bomb Target Buffer Zone
Present Use: Wildlife Conservation
Probable End Use: Wildlife Conservation
Ordnance Presence: **Potential**
Type: Practice Bombs

6. **CURRENT STATUS:** A draft Archive Search Report was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in September 1996.

7. **STRATEGY:**

- a. EE/CA: Area A (Confirmed) Area B (Potential)
 Area C (Potential) Area F (Potential)
 Area G (Potential) Area H (Potential)
 Area I (Confirmed) Area J (Potential)
 the portions of Area E which lie in Sections
 15, 22, 27, 34 and the east half of Section
 21 (potential)
- b. NOFA: Area D and the remainder of Area E.
- c. Additional Potential FUDS:

Recommend PM check on the status of INPRs to be done on these areas or if District included them under this INPR.

EE/CA: Area 6 Area 10 Area 13
 Area 8 Area 11
 Area 9 Area 12

NOFA: Area 1
 Area 5 (small arms only & NOT in section
 identified as **A**surface use only@)
 Area 7

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

New RAC Worksheet: A combined RAC Worksheet for Areas F, G, H, and the portions of Area E which are potentially contaminated was completed by CEHNC on 8 Aug 1997.

Cleanup Efforts: After Camp Coxcomb was declared surplus, work on locating and disposing of duds was carried out within the capabilities of the available troops. The ongoing training requirements and preparations for troop movements prevented any extensive troop use to search for duds. The units were tasked to restore these areas to their original condition. This mission exceeded the capabilities of the available units and many areas were left **As is** for the Los Angeles Corps of Engineers District to clean up. In a September 2, 1949 letter to the BLM, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends **that Sections 15, 22, 27, 34 and the east half of Section 21 (T.3S, R.16E.) be restricted to surface use only as there is evidence that high explosives were used on this land.** The Certificate of Clearance issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, on 8 June 1949, also carries the **surface use only** recommendation and further identifies the high explosives as **mortar, hand grenade, 75 MM and 105 MM shells.**

Areas F, G, and H were changed from **uncontaminated** in the ASR to **potential** for HE at the TAG. Although these ranges were identified as small arms ranges, they lie within Sections which were recommended for **surface use only** due to the evidence that mortars, hand grenades, 75 MM and 105 MM shells had been used in these areas.

Area E. Sections 15, 22, 27, 34 and the east half of Section 21 in Area E were changed from **uncontaminated** to **potential** for HE. The remainder of Area E should remain labeled **uncontaminated.** The Colorado River Aqueduct runs in and out of Area E. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California owns a 50-foot right-of-way on either side.

Additional Potential FUDS: The ASR Site Team uncovered an additional 3,076 acres which were clearly used during the WWII-era activity but which were not addressed in the FDE. Although these areas were supposed to have been dedudded, much ordnance debris still exists. The ASR reports that the mountains and draws are littered with pockets of ordnance-related debris. Table 5-1 of the Findings is re-created on the next two pages. See also Plate 4 in the Findings.

Area	Apparent Area Usage	Approx. Acreage	Source of Evidence	OE Evidence	Remarks
1	Range 1 Infiltration Course	42	Document F-1	NONE	Tower debris and trenches
*					*Areas 2,3 and 4 are Ranges 2-4. They are FUDS approved by FDE date 26 Sep 94, see Plate 3
5	Range 5 Small Arms	42	Document F-1	NONE	Cartridge cases
6	Range 6 Infiltration Course	149	Document F-1	Mk II Grenade Demolition Material	End caps from TNT blocks, breaching charge debris, electric firing wire and blasting cap debris, grenade fragments and small arms cartridge cases
7	Range 7 Tank Machine Gun	330	Document F-1	NONE	Tank coaxial machine gun range, target stands, small arms cartridge cases
8	Mounted and dismounted squad attack	214	Visual Inspection	Grenade, hand & rifle, Demo material, 2.36" rocket	Foothills scarred w/small arms, remains of two rock bunkers, rocket fins, grenade frag & components, small arms cartridge cases everywhere
9	Live fire assault range	334	Visual Inspection	Grenade, hand & rifle, Demo material, 2.36" rocket, 60MM & 81MM mortar, artillery, possible bomb	Foothills scarred w/small arms, concertina wire barricades, target remains, rocket components, grenade frag & components, 60 & 81MM frag & components, frag from major caliber artillery, adapter booster from a bomb, small arms cartridge cases everywhere
10	Tank main gun table	569	Visual Inspection	Grenade, .50 cal.	Tank firing lanes, targets on hillside, unknown if OE is present on hillsides
11	Moving tank range	400	Visual Inspection	Grenade, .50 cal.	Tank tracks crisscrossing, UXO sign posted, rocks damaged by major caliber

12	Assault Ranges	947	Visual Inspection	Grenade, .50 cal., Demo material	Anti-tank ditch, concertina wire, demo craters, grenade frag & small arms cartridges everywhere
13	Rifle grenade	40	Visual Inspection	Rifle grenade components	Range within the levee berms, expended rifle grenade components
TOTAL 3076					

Area I: Area I's proximity to the river aqueduct and the presence of the foundations of a brick building with clay water pipes and a bar-b-que grill rule out its intended use as a range. The ASR SI team proposed the possibility of an unknown person having to dispose of grenades and using this area as the Army was leaving. The area is accessible to the public and is used by hikers, bikers and off-road drivers.

Notification: Site preservation and protection are primary concerns of the BLM. **Therefore, they do not want any surface disturbance at or restoration of the site. However, if a condition constitutes a genuine hazard, they would be willing to accept appropriate restoration activities on the site.** The BLM requested that they be notified of any contemplated activity on the project site.

Terrain: Flat sandy soil with minor soil erosion.

Poisonous Animals: rattle snakes, black widow and brown recluse spiders.

Site Access: Recommend four-wheel-drive vehicles.

Emergencies: Hospital in Blythe, over 55 miles away, coordinate with Sheriff's Dept. and other owners prior to site visit.

Natural Resources: There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities. See Table 3-2 in the Findings for a listing of affected species.

Historical/Cultural Resources: The Coxcomb Divisional Camp was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. Any intrusive measure taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO)

and/or other like organizations.

9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: EE/CA

10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only